

NOTES FROM THE

Comptroller Officer Assignments Section

By Capt Edward Leszynski

It is with great pleasure and a little sadness that I write my last article for The Air Force Comptroller magazine. Today is the last day of my 11-year Air Force career. Even though I am looking forward to my future I will dearly miss the Air Force. The last two years serving the 950 officers in our career field has provided me with tremendous satisfaction. Hopefully, the several hundred of you that I have dealt with feel the same.

Working at the Personnel Center has opened my eyes to the whole Air Force picture. Throughout the last decade, I have witnessed many changes. I experienced the first-ever accounting and finance regionalization at Kadena AB in 1991, and the base closure at Iraklion AS, Greece. Now we have expanded to include DFAS, which offers many exciting assignment opportunities. As a young lieutenant, I saw how the RIF and rumor of civilianizing the FM career field affected retention and morale. The rumors of civilianization came and went, and FMers are still here stronger than ever with no significant reductions in the future. In addition, due to the strong rumor of closing the Institute while I was there, I thought I was going to be a member of the last graduating AFIT class. As you all know, AFIT is still alive and well, and we are filling more financial management Masters and PhD slots than ever before. We are working hard to continue our strong AFIT degree program. Next summer's AFIT degree openings will be visible for review on 1-31 December 2000. Please give Maj Karla Miller a call if you want additional AFIT information.

Surviving all of these uncertainties has enabled me to Spread the Word for the last two years to the rest of the financial management community on all the positives of our career field, and also to brief about the exceptional opportunities that exist today and that will continue long into the future. Throughout the last two years, I have seen the tremendous changes which have occurred by opening the door for our junior officers to broaden their experience in both the operational and acquisition sides of financial management. We are encouraging career paths which enable our junior officers to get two of our three FM disciplines

(cost, budget, and finance). This will no doubt produce a more experienced FM career field. I have witnessed both the increased significance of command, and more importantly, the increased opportunity to command. Our upcoming CY01 FM CC Board will be held 11-12 October 2000 to select commander candidates to fill 35-40 projected openings. Please call Maj Miller if you have any questions about your eligibility for this board. What an awesome opportunity for our financial management field graders!

I am positive that these opportunities will grow with my replacement, Capt Lisa McColgan. Lisa spent her first four years at Hanscom AFB as a weapon system cost analyst. She discussed with me her amazement at how much responsibility she was given as a young officer in AFMC. Her next assignment at Malmstrom AFB as a financial analysis flight commander provided her the rare opportunity to serve as a FM commander for 10 months. Capt McColgan arrived from Ramstein AB in mid-September where she served the last three years as a MAJCOM budget analyst. I encourage you all to give her a call to welcome her to the FM Officer Assignment Team. I'm sure she will be an outstanding addition to the AFPC family.

Lastly, I would like to thank both Maj Tim Little, and especially Maj Karla Miller, for listening to my ideas and providing mentorship when necessary. It was great working with both of you. You will be in my thoughts and memories. For the rest of you out there, my message is still the same. You need to manage your own career effectively. What this means is for you to seek mentorship and advice from your peers, supervisors, and senior leaders. Remember that the FM Assignment Officers at AFPC are here for you to discuss your plans and goals, and provide recommendations for future assignments. Bottom line, getting the right person to the right job is our business! Help us discover your dream assignment. We'll do whatever we can to get you into it!

